

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. Apparatus, comprising:
 - a direct current (dc) electric circuit which includes one or more capacitive
 - 5 elements and which is configured to deliver electric power to a load;
 - a protective circuit element configured to interrupt power to the dc circuit in the event that electric current drawn by the circuit from a power source exceeds a threshold;
 - and
 - a positive temperature coefficient (PTC) device connected in parallel to the
 - 10 protective circuit element, wherein:
 - the PTC device is configured such that before current is admitted to the circuit through the protective element, there can be admitted to the circuit through the PTC device a current at least sufficient to charge the capacitive elements; and
 - the PTC device is further configured to substantially increase in electrical
 - 15 resistance in the event that the current passing through it exceeds a threshold.
2. A method for modifying an electrical installation of the kind which includes a direct current (dc) circuit and a protective circuit element configured to interrupt power to the dc circuit in the event that current drawn by the circuit from a power source exceeds a
- 20 threshold, the method comprising:
 - adding a positive temperature coefficient (PTC) device to the installation in a configuration in which the PTC device is connected in parallel to a protective circuit element such that before current is admitted to the circuit through the protective element, there can be admitted to the circuit through the PTC device a current at least sufficient to
 - 25 charge the capacitive elements.